



MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 | 8:30 a.m. | 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Ralph Okerlund, Chair
Rep. Keven J. Stratton, Chair
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Scott D. Sandall
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht
Rep. Kera Birkeland
Rep. Scott H. Chew
Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Joel Ferry
Rep. Phil Lyman
Rep. Michael K. McKell

Rep. Calvin R. Musselman
Rep. Casey Snider
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

Members Absent:

Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Rep. Timothy D. Hawkes
Rep. Mike Schultz

Staff Present:

Nathan W. Brady, Policy Analyst
Alan Houston, Associate General Counsel
Patricia Owen, Associate General Counsel
Cherish Cosman, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Stratton called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

1 . Committee Business

Nathan W. Brady reviewed electronic meeting procedure and guidelines.

Will Flowers, IT Specialist, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, explained features of the electronic platform.

Nathan W. Brady offered an overview of the Open and Public Meetings Act.

[1 - 2020 Open and Public Meetings Act Review](#)

2 . 2020 Interim Priority Study Items, Reports, and Committee Bills

Nathan W. Brady presented an overview of the 2020 interim required reports and committee interim study items and committee discussion followed. The chairs proposed asking the Legislative Water Development Commission to study the water issues on the study items list and then to provide any recommendations to the interim committee.

[2A - 2020 Interim Required Reports](#)

[2B - 2020 Interim Study Items](#)

MOTION: Sen. Okerlund moved to accept and approve the 2020 study items and required reports as presented. The motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 4.

Yeas-15

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. K. Birkeland
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. J. Ferry
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. McKell
Rep. C. Musselman
Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-4

Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz

Committee discussion on the study items and protocols regarding them continued.

MOTION: Sen. Okerlund moved to authorize both chairs to jointly open committee bill files during the 2020 interim period on behalf of the committee for any items related to the study items and committee discussion to the motion followed. The motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 4.

Yeas-15

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. K. Birkeland
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. J. Ferry
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. McKell
Rep. C. Musselman
Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-4

Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz

3 . Impact of COVID-19 on Agriculture and the Food Supply Chain

Logan Wilde, Commissioner, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, presented an overview of the impacts that COVID-19 has had on the agricultural industry and the food supply chain and answered committee questions.

Brian Steed, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources, discussed areas impacted by COVID-19, commented on the Department of Natural Resources's efforts, and answered questions from the committee.

Brent Tanner, Executive Vice President, Utah Cattlemen's Association, presented on the effects the cattle industry has experienced from COVID-19 and responded to committee questions.

Sierra Nelson, Executive Director, Utah Wool Growers, reported on the impacts COVID-19 has had on the wool industry and responded to committee questions.

Ron Gibson, President, Utah Farm Bureau, presented an update on the agriculture industry with the challenges from COVID-19 and answered questions from the committee.

Jim Webb, President, Pork Producers Association, provided an overview of Smithfield operations, discussed impacts of COVID-19 on the pork industry, and answered questions from the committee.

Cliff Lillywhite, President, Oakdell Farms, Egg Producers, presented an update on the egg industry and answered committee questions.

Committee discussion on industry impacts continued.

4 . Access to Agriculture Grants and Loans

RJ Spencer, Director, Utah Conservation Commission, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, provided an overview and update on the process and status of grants from the federal government and loans from the state and responded to committee questions.

Logan Wilde spoke to the challenges of the grant process and answered committee questions with committee discussion following.

[4 - UDAF Agriculture Grant Example](#)

5 . Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Payments as Federal Stimulus

Chair Stratton reported on the activities of the Federalism Commission regarding PILT matters and responded to committee questions.

[5A - Senate Communication 4-20-20 Regarding PILT Payments](#)

[5B - Draft Resolution: Concurrent Resolution Calling Upon The National Government to Fund the Payments In Lieu of Taxes \(PILT\) On a Tax Equivalency Basis As Emergency and Long-Term Stimulus for Utah Citizens, Schools, Counties, and the State](#)

6 . Impact of COVID-19 on Environmental Quality

Scott Baird, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality, provided an update on air quality, discussed future plans, and answered committee questions.

[6 - Utah's Air Quality](#)

Ericka Gaddis, Director, Division of Water Quality, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, gave an overview of water quality in Utah and responded to questions from the committee.

7 . Impact of COVID-19 on Oil, Gas, and Mining

Brian Steed presented an overview of oil and gas challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, updated the committee on the industry status, and responded to committee questions.

[7B - Notice to Oil and Gas Producers, Department of Natural Resources](#)

John R. Baza, Director, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, discussed challenges in the market amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and responded to committee questions.

Mark Kettle, Deputy Director, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, presented an overview of industry activity and response during the COVID-19 pandemic and answered questions.

[7C - Oil and Gas Program, Department of Natural Resources](#)

Rikki Hrenko-Browning, President, Utah Petroleum Association, presented an update on the state oil and gas industry and responded to committee questions.

[7D - COVID-19 Impacts On Utah's Mining Industry, Utah Mining Association](#)

Brian Somers, President, Utah Mining Association, spoke to the issue of support to the industry and encouraged the committee to consider the oil and gas industry when deciding how to spend funds.

Wes Adams, Assistant Director of Oil and Gas, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), spoke to the issue of recovery and committee discussion continued.

8 . Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. McKell moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 4.

Yeas-15

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. K. Birkeland
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. J. Ferry
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. McKell
Sen. R. Okerlund
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-4

Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Schultz

Chair Stratton adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.